

Lisa Franklin's Nursing Program Statement for Delivery at BOS Meeting in September 2014

The general feeling from everyone in town, including the Finance Committee seems to be that the Acton Nursing service is a really nice thing, we'd like to keep it, if we can make it pay for itself. The commission takes a much stronger stand on this. We feel that the nursing service is an essential, integral part of our community much like the fire and police who not expected to turn a profit or follow a business model. 22% of people in US have some kind of disability.

10000 people a day are turning 65 (projected through 2030). The 4 major causes of physical disability are arthritis, back pain, respiratory, and cardiac conditions which we can easily see happening to ourselves and our loved ones. However, all PWD need home nursing or assistance, but for those who do, it means the difference between continuing to live a "normal", involved lifestyle, or simply passing time in an institutional setting. The COD believes that health care is a human right worth fighting (and paying) for, that the gaps between insured, underinsured, and uninsured is closing but by no means eliminated. If your neighbor's house is on fire, and he hasn't paid his taxes, you still want the fire dept. to come, to protect your own house if for no other reason. Even if you have never had to call the police, it is important to know that they are there if you do ever need them.

That is why Acton needs a nursing service,. The reason why we need this nursing service is found behind all those glowing testimonies everyone has been relating about their experiences with ANS. They truly understand and deliver person centered and independent living oriented services the Olmstead decision calls for viable ,and least restrictive choices. Other home care agencies are lost in their own regulations, restrictions and bureaucracy, and have such large caseloads that the individual consumer must schedule his life around the agency's availability rather than his own personality and lifestyle, which gets in the way of actual community living and is hardly least restrictive and most inclusive. ANS staff are local, they know the area, and the community. This agency responds faster and more effectively than any other we have come across. Other communities are struggling to develop what we already have. This matter deserves an opportunity for us to educate the public as to

what is at stake, and ask Town Meeting to agree to fund its continuation exactly as it is.